

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/OIA:BBROOKENS/CNELLIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJ: SURPLUS PROPERTY AND LEND-LEASE DEBTS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARMSTRONG

1. WE WISH TO REMIND YOU OF THE FEBRUARY 15 DUE DATE OF OUR REPORT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS REGARDING OUR EFFORTS TO COLLECT GOI SURPLUS PROPERTY/ LEND-LEASE ARREARAGES. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CONTINUED INACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOI, IN LIGHT OF ITS FAVORABLE FINANCIAL POSITION WOULD BE INCREASINGLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE. REPORTS OF AN EXPECTED DOLS 6-8 BILLION SURPLUS THIS YEAR ALONE WITH OVER DOLS 2 BILLION SAID TO BE BUDGETED FOR INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES LEAVES NO SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC REASON FOR FURTHER GOI DELAY IN PAYING THESE MODEST DEBTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN SPREAD OUT OVER A 13 YEAR PERIOD.

2. DEPARTMENT IS VERY CONCERNED THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO SHOW REAL PROGRESS (SUCH AS IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF REMAINING SMALL ACCOUNTS) IN OUR REPORT TO THE MOORHEAD COMMITTEE. THIS WOULD RESULT IN A NEGATIVE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTION WHICH CERTAINLY NOT IN INTEREST OF GOI, GIVEN ITS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ABSENCE OF CONCRETE PROGRESS ON THIS MATTER AND PROBLEM OF CONTINUED

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IRANIAN INTEREST IN IBRD LENDING DISCUSSED STATE 16373

COULD BE INTERPRETED HERE AS EVIDENCE THAT IRAN IS

INSENSITIVE TO RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO WITH ITS NEW ECONOMIC ROLE. CURRENT GOI POSITION ON THESE DEBTS ALSO DOES NOTHING TO COMBAT PUBLIC TENDENCY TO LUMP IRAN WITH OTHER "MIDDLE EAST OIL COUNTRIES" AS TARGETS FOR GENERAL CRITICISM.

3. WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED A) GOI RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL OF SEPTEMBER 1972, B) REPLY TO DECEMBER 6 DIPLOMATIC NOTE (OF WHICH PLEASE FORWARD COPY TO DEPARTMENT) OR C) THE GOI COUNTERCLAIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMISED FOR SOME TIME.

4. PLEASE BRING THESE CONCERNS AND THE PENDING DEADLINE TO THE ATTENTION OF MINFIN AMOUZEGAR AS WELL AS TO OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE GOI. PLEASE KEEP THE DEPARTMENT UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS TO ENABLE US TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE BY FEBRUARY 15 DEADLINE. KISSINGER

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